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Identical letters dated 24 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Syrian Arab Republic wishes to transmit the following verified information regarding the violence and horrific violations of international law and international humanitarian law that have been inflicted on Syria by armed terrorist groups which, along with their supporters, continue to shed Syrian blood in defiance of all humanitarian values. The killings follow a regular and well-known time frame, preceding Security Council meetings on the situation in Syria.

The armed terrorist group known as Liwa' al-Islam, which is led by a Salafist leader called Zahran Allush, committed a horrifying massacre on the morning of 24 October 2012 in the town of Duma, Rif Dimashq. Syria lost 25 children, women and elderly people belonging to six families: Al-Qubaytiri, Al-'Abid, Al-Jundi, Al-Ayyubi, Diyab and Al-Safadi.

The massacre took place in an area where the Syrian Arab Army and law enforcement forces are not present and armed terrorist factions are active. That fact, along with the timing, shows yet again that armed terrorist factions and their supporters are responsible for these massacres, which are premeditated and carried out in cold blood. The affected regions of Syria, including Hulah and Turaymisah, were safe and secure before terrorist groups poured in with weapons and foreign mercenaries. The terrorists' killings and crimes enjoy the financial, political and media backing of certain well-known States. Syria has warned of those States' support for terrorism in previous letters to the Security Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Human Rights Council.

Syria demands that the Security Council, the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Human Rights Council expose the actions of those terrorist organizations, hold them accountable and condemn their crimes. They must not replicate the shameful position of certain members of the Security Council. Germany, for instance, prevented the Council from condemning the perpetrators of the terrorist

operation that took place two days ago in the Bab Tuma quarter of Damascus and claimed the lives of 13 innocent women and children.

The Security Council and other United Nations entities should comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions by combating terrorism wherever and whenever it occurs, regardless of who perpetrates it and who provides funding and support.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative